## CHRISTOPHER J. LEE 26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2010

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Mr. Patrick K. Hallinan Superintendent Department of the Army Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA 22211-5003

Dear Superintendent Hallinan,

As you begin your term as the superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, I would like to bring to your attention my ongoing request to establish a memorial marker on the grounds to honor the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's Medal of Honor recipients.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division has made countless sacrifices to protect our nation's freedom. First activated in 1941, the Division was ascribed the motto of "First to Fight" as they were one the first U.S. Army divisions to see combat in the war and among the last to stop fighting. This motto also proved true in later years, as they were the first fighting unit deployed to Korea in 1950. For these brave acts, the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was appropriately recognized as 'the Victory Division' for their valiant efforts.

Last year, veterans of the now deactivated 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division made an initial request to place a small marker at Arlington National Cemetary in remembrance of their 14 fellow service members who were awarded the Medal of Honor. Former Superintendent John C. Metzler, Jr. denied this request citing decreased land availability. In response, I introduced a concurrent resolution (H.Con.Res. 232) expressing the sense of Congress that a site at Arlington should be provided for this marker. This resolution now has 22 bipartisan cosponsors in the House of Representatives.

I respectfully ask you to reexamine this request and carefully consider the specifics of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division veterans' request. First, veterans of this Division have offered to cover all expenses attributed to the design and construction of the marker. Second, the marker is relatively small. A number of years ago, 24<sup>th</sup> ID veterans dedicated a marker at Punchbowl National Cemetery in Hawaii and are planning to replicate this design for Arlington. This marker measures 2.75 feet wide and 1.66 feet deep. I have included these specifications and a photograph to give you an accurate perspective. Third, I have also included photographs of a number of markers of memorial currently in place along walking paths at Arlington. My office took these photographs on a recent visit to illustrate that a number of specific divisions, regiments, and other military outfits have been recognized and honored with a marker.

I ask you to revisit this request and take consideration of the details I have provided in this letter and the enclosures. Should you have any questions or requests for additional

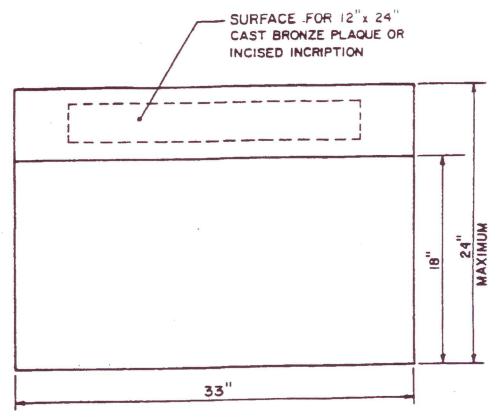
information, please contact Jeff Freeland in my office at (202) 225-5265 or <a href="jeff.freeland@mail.house.gov">jeff.freeland@mail.house.gov</a>. I thank you for your consideration and wish you the very best as you embark on this new and honorable responsibility.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER J. LEI Member of Congress

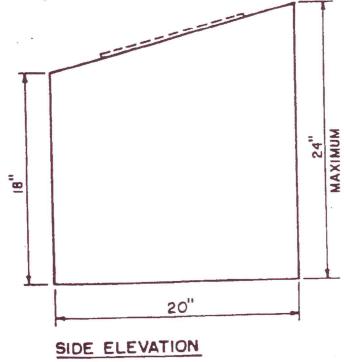
Encl.

## STONE BASE



## FRONT ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8 = 1"



SCALE: 1/8 = 1"

Figure 2









GREAT ASHFIELD (STATION 155) SUFFOLK, ENGLAND ORY OF ALL WHO SERVED AIDING IN THE LIBER EUROPE DURING WORLD WAR II DEDICATED 1986 385th BOMB GROUP (H)

Oth AIR FORCE
1943 - 1945



